

# Bechtel Women's Group donates to Boys and Girls Club program

In April, the Bechtel Women's Group presented a check for more than \$41,000 to the Boys and Girls Club in Pasco. The money will be used to purchase instruments for the Los Amigos Musicos Program.

More than 60 children from kindergarten through seventh grade participate in the program. The Boys and Girls Club hopes to expand the program next fall.

Learning to play an instrument does more than just fill potentially idle time. "It's been shown that the sense of accomplishment children feel when they participate in music also helps them improve their academic performance as well," said Desiree Voss, who oversees music-program staffing for the Boys and Girls Club.

"Being part of a music program allows students to be a part of a team, to watch the team improve and watch themselves improve. It lets them be part of a group where they can feel a sense of community," said Voss.

The Boys and Girls Club will use the funds to purchase percussion instruments, guitars, electronic keyboards, sheet music and books, and to staff the program. Students in the program currently use homemade instrument and borrowed guitars, some of which are too large for younger children.

This is second time the Bechtel Women's Group has made a contribution to the Boys and Girls Club. Two years ago, the group provided \$37,000 to remodel the kitchen in the club's building, a former elementary school. The money also went to remove locker rooms adjacent to the kitchen and gym and turn the space into an eating area, dubbed Kid Café, where kids can get after-school healthy snacks.

The Bechtel Women's Group is open to Bechtel employees and spouses. Among the many activities sponsored by the Bechtel Women's Group is an annual service auction. The auction, which took place earlier this year, raised \$55,000. Over the past eight years, the Bechtel Women's Group has raised more than \$300,000 for local charities benefiting children and seniors.

This year, the group also made contributions to the Three Rivers Carousel Foundation to restore wooden horses for a carousel in Columbia Park and to the Cub Scouts for their day-camp facility. ■



**Phyllis Chaloupka of the Bechtel Women's Group and Ciara Vargas help each other learn the guitar during lessons at the Boys and Girls Club in Pasco. The Bechtel Women's Group made a \$41,000 donation to purchase "right-sized" guitars and other musical instruments for the club's Los Amigos Musicos Program.**